

June 11, 2007

SUBJECT: Lost Horse Quarry

TO: Darby District Ranger - Chuck Oliver

I'm writing to comment on the proposal to re-open the Lost Horse Quarry for Ravalli County's use. As a resident of Lost Horse, I'm strongly and adamantly opposed to this proposal. I have no law, regulation, or policy to support my opposition; only my desire, need, and emotions to protect "MY" home, neighborhood, and lifestyle. I will explain my reasons for my opposition.

In this particular case, its my back yard that is being impacted. The people with the decision authority, the U.S. Forest Service; Ravalli County employees, and residents creating the demand for the rock for county roads, do not live here. If everyone did, I suspect all would also be opposed to re-opening the quarry. But, its not their back yard. I may be called selfish since I drive on county roads, but I'm still not willing to impact my home, neighborhood, lifestyle, and values to meet this negative demand. Have to draw a line somewhere and stand my ground.

Many years ago when this quarry was actively operating, there were under 10 people living in the neighborhood on the Lost Horse Road, nine to be exact. I'm not sure today how many people reside, but the mail box count is around 69.

Lost Horse area is an active residential neighborhood that does not need more negative impact and assault from people who don't live in the neighborhood. We already deal with plenty from the saloon, logging, hunters, wood cutters, ETC., and "ALL" the traffic from recreational access to federal land.

These people who don't have their homes in this area, do not show a lot of respect or courtesy for our neighborhood.

1. Speed way beyond the posted limit of 45 mph.
2. Don't slow down when locals are walking, riding horses, or bicycles on the road.
3. Constantly deposit/scatter their litter on our land.
4. In winter drive to fast, loose control, and destroy fences and private property.
5. Dramatically increase noise levels from ongoing traffic decreasing the quiet and rural atmosphere of the neighborhood.

I do "not" like the idea of more traffic and the associated vehicle noise from a county gravel making operation using the neighborhood access road. My home is a place to get away, a refuge which I think is what most people would say. Who do you know that likes to live in their home next to a busy road way with lots of traffic and it associated noise?

This brings up that fact, that the county has previously researched the easement width on Lost Horse Road. I assume this was done so the county could widen Lost Horse Road to accommodate their trucks etc. Another potential great step, widening the road, in sacrificing the values of those who live on the road so the county can accomplish its work at Lost Horse resident's expense, or loss in this case.

To close, a question. What other options exist if this quarry is not available? Can the county purchase material from existing gravel pits such as Donaldson's or others that already actively exist? Might even be more cost effective by not having to move all the equipment into the area and transport the material to the valley. What other options exist and have been explored?

I also beg to differ with the statement that a 10 year use of the Lost Horse Quarry will be supplied only from material that fell from the cliff face. Lets be realistic. The cliff face debris will not meet total demand. Over 10 years there will be a need for drilling and blasting. MORE IMPACT.

THANK YOU for opportunity to respond and represent my neighborhood and home. Hope you will do the same?

Sincerely,

Bob Oset

Bob Oset
394 Lost Horse Road
Hamilton, MT
59840
Phone 363-4048

I do "not" like the idea of more traffic and the associated vehicle noise from a quarry gravel making operation using the neighborhood access road. My home is a place to get away, a refuge which I think is what most people would say. Who do you know that likes to live in their home next to a busy road way with lots of traffic and its associated noise?

~~This brings up that fact, that the county has previously researched~~
the county with a lot of horse road to accommodate local traffic. Another potential great step, widening the road, is sacrificing the values of those who live on the road so the county can accomplish its work at Lost Horse resident's expense, or loss in this case.

To close, a question. What other options exist if this quarry is not available? Can the county purchase material from existing gravel pits such as Donaldson's or others that already actively exist? Might even be more cost effective by not having to move all the equipment into the area and transport the material to the valley. What other options exist and have been explored?

I also beg to differ with the statement that a 10 year use of the Lost Horse Quarry will be supplied only from material that fell from the cliff face. Let's be realistic. The cliff face debris will not meet total demand. Over 10 years there will be a need for drilling and blasting. MORE IMPACT.

THANK YOU for opportunity to respond and represent my neighborhood
~~and hope you will do the same.~~

Sincerely,

Bob Osef

Bob Osef
304 Lost Horse Road
Hamilton, MT
59840
Phone 363-4048